

MACQUARIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

AUTUMN BLUEY NEWSLETTER

"Truth and Virtue"

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Mr. Alexandru
Acting Principal

Term in Review and Looking Ahead

Dear Macquarie Grammar School Community,

Here is another term gone, bringing us to the half-year mark. It has been an incredibly intense and productive term, filled with a variety of activities both within the academic field and beyond the classroom. These experiences are crucial in enhancing the social and personal development of our students while complementing the curriculum.

As usual, the term began with the Parent-Teacher Interview evening. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for teachers to give feedback on the Term 1 performance of our students and collaborate with parents and guardians on strategies to support their child's studies. The increasing number of students in each class has fostered a diverse array of learning experiences, from group work to healthy competition, which enhances the spirit and willingness to engage in intellectual challenges.

Our experienced teachers have utilised a range of strategies in their course delivery, ensuring a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Excursions, workshops, visits to the museum and theatre have been integral parts of the learning process, providing our students with rich and varied experiences.

Our senior students have faced the challenges of the HSC courses and the rigors of exams, completing their half-yearly examinations for most subjects. I would like to extend a special thank you to our dedicated teachers who generously offered their time during the school holidays to deliver extra lessons to our Year 12 students. These efforts are invaluable as our students prepare for their Trials next term, just one term away from their HSC examinations.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the parents for their ongoing confidence in the school, to guardians, home-stay parents, and the larger community for your continued support and involvement, to the staff for their genuine care and interest in the students and to the students for their pride in Macquarie Grammar School.

I look forward to continuing to support and engage our students and to collaborating closely with our vibrant school community for the remainder of the year. Wishing you all a restful and refreshing holiday.

Messages from Mrs Sun

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the highlights of Term 2 at our school. It has been a dynamic and productive term filled with exciting activities and focused academic pursuits.

Student well being and developing good habits

We are committed to promoting the well-being of our students by guiding them in building a sense of positivity and resilience. Our students must interact respectfully and graciously with each other as members of the Macquarie Grammar School community. We encourage parents/guardians to work with us to emphasize the importance of healthy habits, respectful interactions, and a growth mindset to our students.

Our students need to use their mobile devices and Personal Learning Devices responsibly. We want to emphasize that teachers expect students to keep their mobile phones away during curriculum time and other school activities. Any use during these times must have explicit permission from the teacher in charge. Additionally, Personal Learning Devices should only be used for learning purposes. We've stressed to our students that mobile devices and Personal Learning Devices should not be used for inappropriate activities. We will continue to educate our students to be safe and responsible users of technology and would like to work closely with parents/guardians to manage device usage.

The digital environment is a significant part of our students' lives. As a school, we strive to create a positive learning environment and encourage all our students to be positive peer influences. We ask for support and assistance from parents/guardians to actively supervise and monitor their children's use of mobile devices and online platforms to ensure that they are used in a meaningful and healthy manner.

Digital Literacy Initiatives: Optus Digital Workshops

Ms Ryan from Optus conducted enlightening Digital Workshops aimed at enhancing students' digital literacy across all year levels:

- Digital Balance Workshop:

Students in Years 11 and 12 explored strategies for maintaining a healthy balance between online activities and offline responsibilities. The workshop emphasised time management techniques and the importance of mindful use of digital devices.

- Digital Discernment Workshop:

Year 10 students engaged in discussions on identifying reliable sources of information online. They learned critical thinking skills to evaluate the credibility of digital content, essential for navigating today's information rich environment.

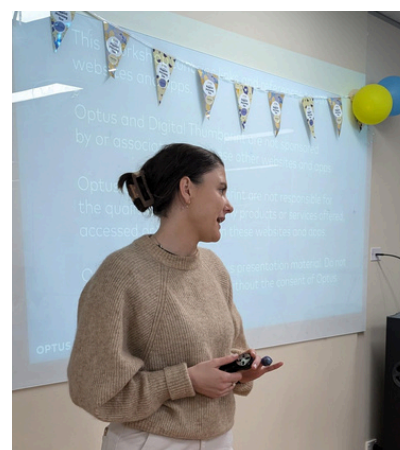
- Cyber Security Workshop:

Separate sessions were held for students in Years 7, 8, 9, and HSP, focusing on practical strategies to enhance online safety. Topics included safeguarding personal information, recognising cyber threats, and understanding the importance of strong passwords and privacy settings.

These workshops were instrumental in equipping our students with essential skills to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. Ms Ryan's expertise and engaging approach ensured that students gained practical knowledge they could apply in their everyday lives.

Attendance and punctuality

For students to do well in school, they must attend school regularly and punctually so that they do not miss out on the lessons and teachers' instructions. Students who are absent from school are to submit the relevant document(s) excusing their absence on the day they return to school. Students who fail to submit the document(s) supporting their absence or their return to school may face disciplinary action.



Term 2 Sports Activities: Athletics Carnival and Cross Country Events

We began Term 2 with great energy at the 2024 School Athletics Carnival at ES Marks, Kensington, where our students showcased exceptional sportsmanship despite challenging weather. This was followed by the exhilarating Cross Country event at the Domain, highlighting our students' endurance and teamwork.

HSC Study Skills Workshops and Academic Support

Our English faculty has been diligently preparing Year 12 students for their HSC exams through focused workshops aimed at enhancing their analytical and writing skills for success.

In the Language faculty, Year 12 students enrolled in Chinese and Japanese language courses participated in dedicated HSC Study Skills Workshops. These workshops focused on familiarising students with exam techniques, including tackling different question types and refining their exam strategies to achieve high band results.

Students engaged in rigorous practice sessions and received personalised feedback to strengthen their proficiency in both languages. These efforts are aimed at equipping our students with the confidence and skills necessary to excel in their upcoming Trial and HSC exams.

Science Experiments: UTS Science Excursion

Our students had the enriching opportunity to participate in hands-on science experiments during the UTS Science Excursion. Accompanied by expert instructors, they gained valuable insights into scientific methodologies and explored various scientific concepts in a practical setting. This experience not only enhanced their understanding of scientific principles but also ignited their curiosity for further exploration in the field of science.

Visual Arts Faculty: Art Gallery Visit and Artistic Expression

Our Visual Arts faculty organised visits to art galleries for all year groups, providing students with a deeper understanding of various art forms. Students demonstrated exceptional behaviour and a keen interest in artistic expression, enriching their creative pursuits.

Term 2 Holiday Lessons for Year 12 Students

During the holiday break, dedicated teachers offered additional lessons for Year 12 students, ensuring they feel supported and well prepared for their upcoming exams. We extend our sincere appreciation to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and outstanding students for their hard work and commitment throughout Term 2. Together, we have created a vibrant and successful school community.

Mrs Sun
Director of welfare and operations
Acting Deputy Principal





I most certainly hit the ground running at the start of term 2 having firmly taken over the SRC and a busy term full of activities in the pipeline at MGS.

After the rejuvenating break at the end of lengthy term 1, Term 2 began with an assembly in which we commemorated Anzac day and acknowledged the efforts of the Commonwealth soldiers in their efforts in World War 1.

Our School Captains Michael and Hanh did a fantastic job of informing our students at MGS about the meaning of Anzac Day in a beautifully compiled presentation.

On May 23rd, The SRC organised and executed a meticulously-arranged Biggest Morning Tea, in which the students enjoyed delicious treats as part of our donations towards the Cancer Council. As a school, Macquarie Grammar raised just on \$260 for the cause and I would like to thank our staffs and students for their generous and thoughtful contributions towards this amazing cause.

The term concluded with a Movie Day where students enjoyed a double period of leisurely and fun movie time to conclude a busy and productive term.

We look forward to anti-bullying week and Jeans for Genes initiatives in Term 3!

Our Mathematics Year 10 group grew by 6 students from HSP and the ever-challenging task of continuing to differentiate and assess them towards their preferred pathway of Mathematics in stage 6 was in full swing. A mention must go to Sean Mingbo Li for obtaining 100% in his formal Mathematics 5.3 assessment for his midyear assessment. Well done Sean!!!

In Mathematics club, our students enjoyed their weekly Friday afternoon AMC challenge questions and despite the rigorous Mathematics program at MGS, from juniors right up to seniors, made the best of attempts to passionately answer these AMC questions to their best abilities and have fun.

Our HSC group continued in their quest for greatness in 2024 and with each assessment, I am more and more hopeful that this cohort will achieve great results in their upcoming term 3 trials and eventually, the HSC examinations...Keep Pushing Year 12s!!

As a science educator, June 4th saw me supervise and oversee a Science excursion along with Mr Warren to UTS. The programme for the list of experiments for Biology was extensive this year and our Biology students got to perform experiments relating to enzyme activity, DNA gel electrophoresis and microscope work.

Volleyball remained a popular sport in term 2 and our budding players continue to grow in their confidence and communication outside the classroom.

We look forward to a double training session in term 3.

I look forward to Term 3 and wish our students and my colleagues a restful and rejuvenating break as we prepare to navigate through HSC trials and beyond.

Mr George Stavropoulos
SRC coordinator
Stage 5 Mathematics
Stage 6 Mathematics Standard
Stage 6 Biology
Volleyball

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES



Term 2 saw the introduction of some new activities during Thursday Sport time with Yoga and Boxing joining the popular core sports at MGS. The students were elated to have more variety of sports on offer and for many it was their first time participating in these activities. I congratulate the students for their maturity and willingness to try new sports.

This Term also saw another successful Athletics Carnival take place at ES Marks in Week 2, with Fraser House awarded overall Champions, closely followed by Freeman House. The school was very lucky to have good weather in-between a rainy climatic period of the year and importantly we were able to have a complete Carnival in the end with all events available.

In Week 3, the whole school took part in the Cross-Country event at the Domain. Many students were challenged by this run, though ultimately it was a good opportunity to test students' character and fitness levels. Following this event, I was able to select the best runners to participate in the Representative version, ISD Cross-Country, where the students represented MGS with the highest standards. In addition to their brilliant performance, I commend all of them for their behaviour and for the way they competed against the other schools.

The ISD boys Football team played tremendously at the tournament with Mr Potts coaching the team well. He has written a more detailed report in the Bluey for your benefit. Well done to all involved.

In Term 3, Netball will be available to students as they prepare for an ISD representative tournament. Due to the demand in Volleyball, training will now take place twice a week on Thursdays (during Sport time) and Fridays (during Club time). This is another great opportunity for students to take their game to another level.

Mr Diakis
Sportsmaster





MGS students at the ISD Boys' Football

ISD Boys' Football

On the Monday of week 6, our boys football team took part in the ISD Football (Soccer) Competition.

The boys had trained well throughout the term and were proud to be able to represent the school.

The weather conditions were perfect on the day. Our students played very well, winning their first game but losing the following two games.

The boys played with great positivity, spirit, supported one another and were commended for their good behaviour. The team also wished to share their gratitude to Mr Diakis for coordinating our participation in the event.

Mr Potts
English Teacher





Tree Phan, Year 9

Valerie Cheng, Year 9



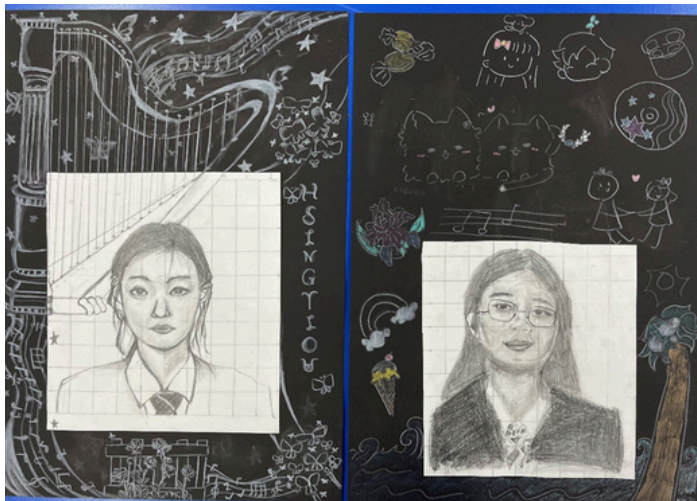
Janan Shirzadeh Semsar , Year 9

Leon Briers, Year 9

Term 2 was a busy but successful artmaking Term for students at Macquarie Grammar School. Students developed artmaking skills in a variety of creative ways, with the focus on Portraits, Landscape and Sculpture.

Year 7, 8 and 9 learned about portraiture. Year 7 and 8 developed monochromatic portraits using a grid technique, whilst Year 9 created colourful symbolic and figurative portraits.

Ms Green
Visual Arts Teacher



Angel Ou, Year 7

Jessica Guo, Year 8



Dorothy Hon, Year 7

Hong Lin, Year 8

This Term Year 10 learned about the French Impressionism Art Movement and explored how they made landscape paintings using vibrant colours and bold textures to capture the fleeting effects of light on the landscape. Students studied well-known artists Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet and Arthur Streeton, and recreated their famous artworks by using water colour paint, acrylic paint and crayon mediums.



Cat Nguyen, Year 10



Paul Debec, Year 10



Sudeep Giri, Year 10



Annie Ngo, Year 10



Gary Feng, Year 10

Year 11 were inspired by contemporary Installation artists and sculptors this Term, and challenged themselves by creating abstract and conceptual sculptures using a variety of materials (sticks, clay, fabric and cardboard).



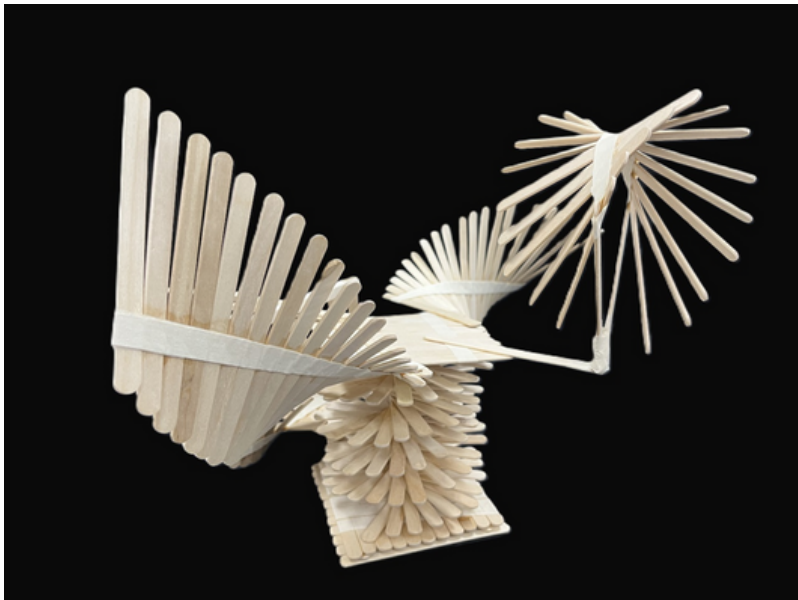
Kristina Doan, Year 11



Kristina Doan, Year 11



Khue Nguyen, Year 11



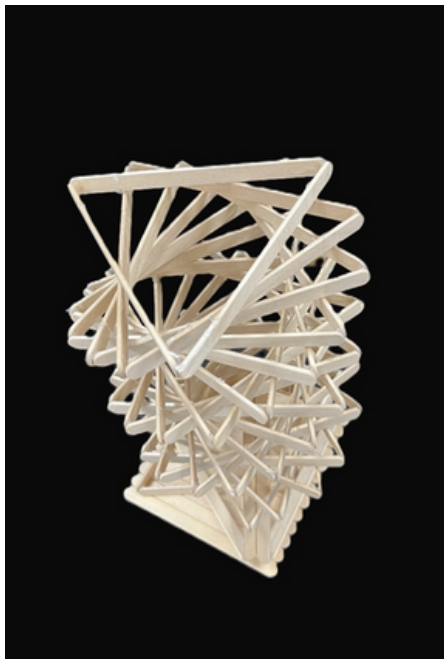
Charlotte Liu, Year 11



Kristina Doan, Year 11



Lola Wang, Year 11



Liam Nguyen, Year 11



Students also attended excursions to the Art Gallery of NSW to see the famous Art Nouveau artist Alphonse Mucha and the Archibald Portrait Prize.

Alphonse Mucha (1860–1939) created some of the most instantly recognisable and best-loved works in modern European art and developed a new look in Paris that defined the late 1800s.

The Archibald Prize is a contemporary Australian art competition which is held annually at the Art Gallery of NSW, and is seen as the most prestigious portrait prize in Australia.



Macquarie Grammar 20th Anniversary Tote Bag Competition

Charlotte Liu, our exceptional Year 11 artist, took out the prestigious first prize award and voucher for her unique appropriation of the Macquarie Grammar School logo to be printed on our school tote bags. This winner is a very talented and highly creative student who constantly surprises her classmates with her authenticity and unique artistic abilities. A huge congratulations for all her hard work on this design.

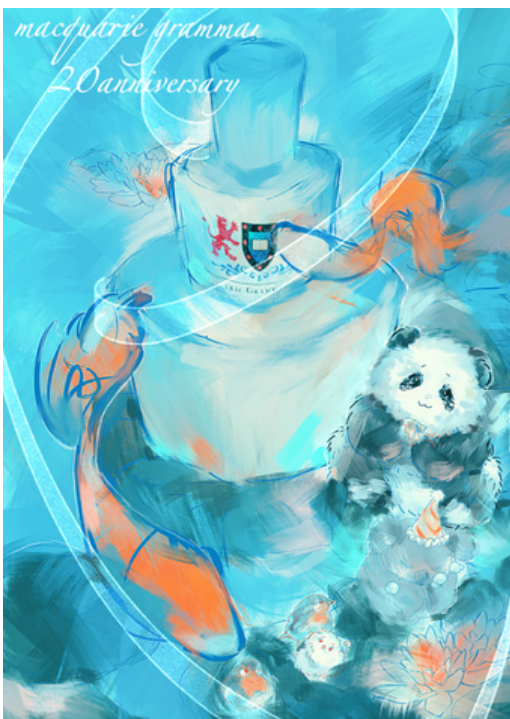


Charlotte Liu (Year 11) Artwork



Charlotte Liu (Year 11) & Ms Green (Visual Art Teacher)

A special mention to Harmony Thorpe, who took out second place. She created a beautiful design entry displaying her emerging artistic style.



Harmony Thorpe-Apps (Year 11) Artwork



Harmony Thorpe-Apps (Year 11) & Ms Green (Visual Art Teacher)



Museum of Sydney Excursion

What's New

On the Wednesday of week 7, students from Stage 4 & HSP attended an excursion to the Museum of Sydney, accompanied by Mrs Yamashita and Mr Potts.

Students took part in the 'Garuwanga Gurad' program to learn about the impact of the settler's arrival on Aboriginal people's way of life.



Outcomes

Our students enjoyed the hands-on experiences while learning some of the history behind Australia's First Nation people.

Mr Potts
English Teacher

Other Activities



Throughout Term 1 and Term 2 the Year 10 Commerce students and the Year 11 Business Studies students participated in the ASX schools Sharemarket game. The game gave students important insight into how the stock market operates in Australia and understanding key changes and components of the stock market. All students participated and were given a certificate of participation.

Mr Ip
Commerce/ Business Studies/ Legal Studies/ Chinese
Beginners Teacher

Students received their certificate of participation during Monday Assembly



MGS Excursions



Students received Term 2 Awards



Term 2 2024 Parent/Guardian - Teacher Interview Evening



Congratulations
on your wedding
Mr Potts!!